

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 071544Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6186

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: IOANNIDES RESTRICTED

1. MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER GHIKAS SAID NOVEMBER 6 THAT A DOCUMENT DELIVERED TO BRIGADIER (RET) DIMITRIOS IOANNIDES NOVEMBER 4 WAS CONFIDENTIAL IN CONTENT AND WAS ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR. ASKED WHETHER THE MINISTRY HAD PROHIBITED IOANNIDES' DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY, GHIKAS SAID: "THIS PROHIBITION IS VALID FOR MANY PERSONS, INCLUDING IOANNIDES."

2. GHIKAS' STATEMENT WAS PROMPTED BY WIDESPREAD PRESS STORIES THAT IOANNIDES HAD BEEN RECENTLY SUMMONED TO POLICE PRECINCT NEAREST HIS SISTER'S HOUSE IN NORTHERN SUBURB OF ATHENS, WHERE HIS IS PRESUMED TO BE STAYING, AND TOLD NOT TO LEAVE ATHENS WITHOUT NOTIFYING LOCAL POLICE. PRESS HAS CARRIED STEADY STREAM OF SPECULATION ABOUT MOVEMENTS OF IOANNIDES, WHICH HAS IMAGINED HIM THE CENTER OF NUMEROUS MELEES, ATTACKS, AND ESCAPES. IOANNIDES' ONLY CONFIRMED PUBLIC APPEARANCE WAS HIS TESTIMONY FIVE WEEKS AGO AT THE POLYTECHNION INQUIRY, WHERE HIS APPEARANCE PROVOKED A HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION. PRESS NOW ASSERTS THAT IOANNIDES MUST BE AT HIS SISTER'S HOME BECAUSE LIGHTS ARE OBSERVED BURNING ON THE PREMISES DURING EVENING HOURS.

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3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LEGAL CASE AGAINST IOANNIDES IS STILL

IN A PRELIMINARY AND AMBIVALENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. HE WAS AMONG THE TWO DOZEN HIGH OFFICERS NAMED IN THE POLYTECHNION INQUIRY AS CONTRIBUTING TO HOMICIDE AND HIS NAME IN THIS REGARD LIKE ALL OTHERS IS UNDERGOING FURTHER INVESTIGATION. HE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE "HIGH TREASON" CASE RECENTLY FILED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AFTER INITIATIVE OF PRIVATE CITIZEN LYKOUREZOS, WHICH MAKES ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FIFTY OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL APRIL 21 COUP. HOWEVER, OTHER PRIVATE CASES ARE PENDING THAT MAY INVOLVE IOANNIDES. GOG SEEMS TO BE BALANCING MEDIA EFFORT TO BUILD DRAMA ABOUT IOANNIDES BY AS LITTLE OFFICIAL COMMENT AS POSSIBLE REGARDING HIM; ITS CAUTION IN THIS REGARD PROBABLY ALSO REFLECTS NAGGING CONCERN THAT IOANNIDES MAY STILL COUNT ON APPRECIABLE SUPPORT IN MILITARY WHO REMAIN WORRISOME FACTOR FOR GOG. IN ADDITION TO THIS WEEK'S LOW-KEY ANNOUNCEMENT, GHIKAS ALSO ANNOUNCED AFTER PRESS INQUIRIES LAST WEEK THAT IOANNIDES REMAINED UNDER SURVEILLANCE. GOG DECISION NOT TO DEPORT HIM TO KEA APPEARED TO ABSOLVE HIM OF CHARGES BY SOME PAPERS THAT TH HAD PLOTTED SINCE HIS OUSTER FROM POWER AGAINST CARAMANLIS. KUBISCH

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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